

A day or two ago during a severe thunder shower one of the balloons was struck by lightning. The balloon was destroyed but the observer escaped by means of his parachute. These balloons are at altitudes varying from 2,000 feet to 6,000 feet and are attached by cable to trucks which run up and down the roads moving the Balloon to a new position if the German shells begin to come too close to it. Another balloon was hit and the observer jumped but his parachute failed to open. He landed in the top of one of the heavily foliaged trees and escaped with only a few bruises.

The French vouch for an aeroplane story that is still more remarkable. A German plane was disabled and fell. The aviator climbed outside on to the wings of his machine and when the machine struck the ground he was thrown from the wings but was not seriously hurt. He was taken prisoner by the French.

*June 26, 1918, Friday.* The aeroplanes were out last night again in full force, no bombing right near us. Two German planes were brought down about two or three miles from us by machine guns. Today has been a rainy day and I have spent nearly all the time in the office.

Today General Girdwood sent out an invitation to the American troops to a picture show at Proven, 7-9 p. m. I presume many of our boys will go, as it is the first time in two months they have had an opportunity of seeing moving pictures.

(Enclosure in diary)

96th Infantry Brigade No. Q. 166.

O. C., 105th U. S. Engineers.

O. C., 117th U. S. Supply Column.

O. C., 110th U. S. Supply Column.

15th Lincs. Fusrs.

16th Lincs. Fusrs.

For information.

2nd Manchester Regt.

96th T. M. Battery

There will be a special show for American Troops only at the Cinema, near Aerodrome PROVEN from 7 to 9 p. m. on the 26th instant.

I should be glad if you could bring this to the notice of the troops under your command.

Seating accommodation—about 400.

Headquarters,  
25th July, 1918.

A. C. GIRDWOOD,  
Brigadier-General,  
Commanding 96th Infantry Brigade.